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Your level of success is
determined by your level of
discipline and perseverance.

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Important Issues of the Day

- **South's seat share – Page No. 1, GS 2**
- **Lebanon and Israel – Page No. 1, GS 2**
- **Legal system – Page No.8 , GS 2**
- **Industrial accidents – Page No.8 , GS 3**
- **India's rural models – Page No.8 , GS 2**
- **Bihu festival – Page No. 7, GS 1**

South's seat share won't be cut, say PM and Shah

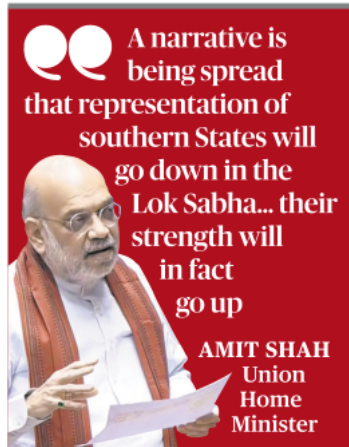
Amit Shah slams those 'spreading misconceptions'; he tells Lok Sabha seats of five southern States will increase from 129 to 195 and reassures people of Tamil Nadu that their 'power is increasing'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

P rime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday told the Lok Sabha that the Bills to amend the women's reservation law and carry out a fresh delimitation exercise will keep current proportional representation of southern States intact while increasing the absolute number of seats for each State approximately by 50%.

While the Prime Minister gave an assurance that the proportional distribution of seats among States will be maintained, the Home Minister gave a detailed scenario for each southern State after the three Bills become law.

The debate followed the introduction of three Bills:



the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, to enable implementation of the women's reservation by the 2029 Lok Sabha polls; the Delimitation Bill, 2026, to readjust parliamentary and Assembly constituencies through a Delimitation Commission; and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill,

2026, to extend the reservation to the legislatures of Delhi, Puducherry, and Jammu & Kashmir.

Mr. Shah said that as the Minister piloting the Bill, he was placing this interpretation before the House officially. "I understand my responsibility. Those who are spreading misconceptions perhaps do not un-

Proposed figures

The table shows the estimated number of seats for southern States as announced by Union Home Minister Amit Shah

State	Current seats	As a share of current 543 seats	50% increase (approx.)	New status (as a share of 816 seats)
Karnataka	28	5.15%	42	5.14%
Andhra Pradesh	25	4.60%	38	4.65%
Telangana	17	3.13%	26	3.18%
Tamil Nadu	39	7.18%	59	7.23%
Kerala	20	3.68%	30	3.67%
Total	129	23.76%	195	23.87%

derstand," he said.

The Minister showed how the representation of the southern States would not go down. The Lok Sabha will have 816 seats after the delimitation exercise.

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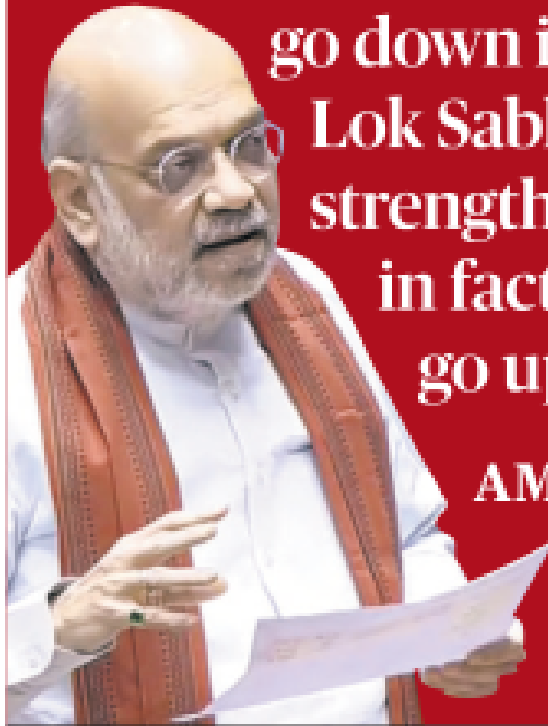
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A narrative is being spread that representation of southern States will go down in the Lok Sabha... their strength will in fact go up



AMIT SHAH
Union Home Minister

Proposed figures

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- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday told the Lok Sabha that the Bills to amend the women's reservation law and carry out a fresh delimitation exercise will keep current proportional representation of southern States intact while increasing the absolute number of seats for each State approximately by 50%.
- While the Prime Minister gave an assurance that the proportional distribution of seats among States will be maintained, the Home Minister gave a detailed scenario for each southern State after the three Bills become law.
- **The debate followed the introduction of three Bills:** the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, to enable implementation of the women's reservation by the 2029 Lok Sabha polls; the Delimitation Bill, 2026, to readjust parliamentary and Assembly constituencies through a Delimitation Commission; and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, to extend the reservation to the legislatures of Delhi, Puducherry, and Jammu & Kashmir.

- **Delimitation means the process of fixing the number of seats and boundaries of territorial constituencies in each State for the Lok Sabha and Legislative assemblies.**
- **It also includes determining the seats to be reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in these houses.**
- **This ‘delimitation process’ is performed by the ‘Delimitation Commission’ that is set up under an act of Parliament.**
- **Delimitation Commissions have been set up four times — 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002 under the Acts of 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002.**
- **Under Article 82, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census.**
- **Under Article 170, States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.**

- **The Commission is appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.**

Composition:

- **Retired Supreme Court judge**
- **Chief Election Commissioner**
- **Respective State Election Commissioners**

Functions:

- **To determine the number and boundaries of constituencies to make the population of all constituencies nearly equal.**
- **To identify seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, wherever their population is relatively large.**

Trump announces ceasefire between Lebanon and Israel

Stanly Johnny

U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday announced a 10-day ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon, effective from midnight.

“I just had excellent conversations with the Highly Respected President Joseph Aoun, of Lebanon, and Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu, of Israel. These two Leaders have agreed that in order to achieve PEACE between their Countries, they will formally begin a 10-day ceasefire at 5 P.M. EST,” Mr. Trump wrote in a social media post.

The ceasefire, if comes into effect, could strengthen the two-week U.S.-Iran ceasefire that was announced on April 8. Extending the truce to Lebanon has been one of the key demands of Iran. When Mr. Trump announced the Iran truce, Is-



Smoke rises from Kfar Tibnit, a Lebanese village attacked by Israel, on Thursday. AFP

rael said Lebanon was not part of it and stepped up strikes on the country.

Mr. Trump said the ceasefire would include Iran-backed Hezbollah. “Today they’re going to be having a ceasefire, and that’ll include Hezbollah,” Mr. Trump told presspersons at the White House.

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MUNIR MEETS GHALIBAF

» **PAGE 16**



- **The establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 triggered mass displacement of over 750,000 Palestinian Arabs (during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war).**
- **Many of these refugees sought shelter in southern Lebanon, heightening tensions in the region. This situation was further complicated by conflicts among various Lebanese factions, including Christian militias and Palestinian groups.**
- **During the 1960s and 1970s, the presence of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in southern Lebanon escalated Israeli security concerns.**
- **In response to PLO attacks on northern Israeli towns, Israel launched military operations in Lebanon (1978 and 1982), leading to prolonged occupation and the eventual rise of Hezbollah.**
- **Hezbollah was established in 1982, with Iranian support, in response to the Israeli invasion and the ongoing civil war, aiming to resist Israeli occupation and protect Lebanese sovereignty.**



- **The Blue Line is a United Nations–identified withdrawal line, not an international border, used to verify Israel’s withdrawal from southern Lebanon as mandated by UN Security Council resolutions.**

Located in:

- **Along southern Lebanon, adjoining northern Israel**
- **Extends for about 120 kilometres from the Mediterranean coast to the tri-border area near the Golan Heights**

- **Established in 2000 by the United Nations**
- **Created to confirm Israel’s compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 425 (1978) after its withdrawal from Lebanon**
- **Reinforced under UN Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006) following the Israel–Hezbollah conflict**

- **Unofficial boundary:** Serves as a line of withdrawal, not a legally recognised international border.
- **UN monitoring:** Patrolled by the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to prevent escalation.
- **Weapons-free buffer:** Resolution 1701 calls for a zone free of armed groups between the Blue Line and the Litani River (except Lebanese armed forces and UNIFIL).
- **Frequent flashpoint:** Subject to violations, construction disputes, and cross-border firing, making it one of the most sensitive frontiers in West Asia.

Which one of the following countries of South-West Asia does not open out to the Mediterranean Sea? (2015)

(a) Syria

(b) Jordan

(c) Lebanon

(d) Israel

The term “two-state solution” is sometimes mentioned in the news in the context of the affairs of (2018)

(a) China

(b) Israel

(c) Iraq

(d) Yemen

Mains Question

Q. The “Two-State Solution” has long been considered the most viable framework for resolving the Israel–Palestine conflict. However, recent geopolitical developments have raised serious doubts about its feasibility. Examine the challenges to the Two-State Solution and discuss its implications for global peace and India’s foreign policy. (250 words)

प्रश्न: इज़राइल-फ़िलिस्तीन संघर्ष के समाधान के लिए “दो-राष्ट्र समाधान” को लंबे समय से सबसे व्यावहारिक विकल्प माना जाता रहा है। किंतु हाल के भू-राजनीतिक घटनाक्रमों ने इसकी व्यवहार्यता पर गंभीर प्रश्न खड़े कर दिए हैं। दो-राष्ट्र समाधान के समक्ष चुनौतियों का परीक्षण कीजिए तथा वैश्विक शांति और भारत की विदेश नीति पर इसके प्रभावों की चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्द)

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Colours of joy



Assamese girls perform the Bihu dance during Rongali Bihu festival in Guwahati on Tuesday. Rongali Bihu, a vibrant festival in Assam, marks the Assamese New Year with feasting, dancing, and traditional rituals. RITU RAJ KONWAR

- **Rongali Bihu, also known as Bohag Bihu, is celebrated across Assam, marking the Assamese New Year and the beginning of the harvesting season.**
- **Rongali Bihu is the most prominent of the three Bihus celebrated annually in Assam, the other two being Kati Bihu (October) and Magh Bihu (January).**
- **Rongali Bihu signifies the beginning of the Hindu solar calendar and is thus celebrated as the Assamese New Year.**
- **Primarily a harvest festival, it marks the onset of spring, with prayers for a prosperous agricultural season.**
- **Etymology: "Rong" means joy in Assamese, reflecting the festival's cheerful spirit.**
- **Celebrations: The Bihu dance (vibrant, fast-paced folk dance from Assam) is performed to the rhythm of folk songs and traditional instruments such as the dhol, pepa, gogona, toka, taal, and hutuli.**

Festival	Timing	Significance
Rongali Bihu	April (Bohag)	Start of sowing season, Assamese New Year
Kati Bihu	October (Kati)	Mid-crop season, prayers for good harvest
Magh Bihu	January (Magh)	End of harvest, community feasts

- **Baisakhi:** Marks the beginning of the spring harvest season in Punjab and Northern India.
- **Puthandu:** Celebrated in Tamil Nadu and by Tamil communities worldwide. It falls on the first day of Chithirai month in the Tamil calendar.
- **Pohela Boishakh:** Celebrated in West Bengal, marking the start of the Bengali calendar year.
- **Jude Sheetal:** Celebrated by Maithili communities in Bihar, Jharkhand, and Nepal.
- **Pana Sankranti:** Celebrated in Odisha as the Odia New Year. It is known for the traditional drink Bela Pana made from bael fruit ((wood apple).
- **Vishu:** Celebrated in Kerala and parts of Tamil Nadu, it marks the Sun's transition into Mesha Rashi.
- **Ugadi:** Observed in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka as the start of the Hindu New Year.
- **Ugad** derived from Sanskrit, "Yuga" (age) and "Adi" (beginning) together mean "the beginning of a new age."
- **Gudi Padwa:** Celebrated in Maharashtra and Goa as Samvatsar Padvo. It marks the beginning of the Marathi New Year and the first day of the Chaitra month.
- **Navreh:** Observed by Kashmiri Pandits to mark their traditional New Year. Navreh derived from Sanskrit "Nava Varsha", meaning "new year".

The institutionalised sluggishness of the legal system

Page No.6 , GS 2

For the millions of Indians who have spent years navigating the labyrinthine corridors of our legal system, the courthouse is often a place where hope goes to languish. While high-profile cases capture the headlines and move through the docket with visible momentum, the average citizen finds himself trapped in a cycle of adjournments and procedural hurdles that can span generations. We have reached a point where the phrase “justice delayed is justice denied” is no longer a warning but a standard operating procedure.

It's time for the focus to shift away from the judge holding the gavel and towards the people standing in the dock. The urgency of judicial reform in India is not a professional concern for lawyers or a theoretical exercise for academics; it is a fundamental human rights crisis that demands a total reimagining of how the state delivers on its promise of fairness.

The excruciating wait

The primary grievance of the common person is the sheer, suffocating weight of pendency. With over five crore cases currently clogging the arteries of our courts, the system has become its own worst enemy. For a layman, the legal process feels like a black hole where time and money disappear without a clear horizon for resolution. This backlog emboldens the lawbreaker and exhausts the law-abiding. When a land dispute takes 20 years to resolve, the winner often finds the victory hollow, having spent more on legal fees than the property was worth.

The institutionalised sluggishness of the Indian legal system has transformed the pursuit of justice into an endurance test, giving rise to the grim observation that “the process is the punishment.” Unnecessary procedural bottlenecks and the culture of frequent, and often frivolous adjournments create a gravitational pull that keeps cases in limbo for decades, effectively stripping the accused of their dignity, livelihood, and social standing long before a verdict is ever reached. This systemic failure is most visible in the tragic stories of individuals charged with grave offences who are eventually acquitted, only to find their lives in ruins and their prime years spent behind bars, without compensation.

It is particularly unconscionable that those charged under stringent anti-terrorism laws, such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), languish in overcrowded prisons without trial and without the possibility of bail, as the *prima facie* evidence standard often makes



Shashi Tharoor

Fourth-term Member of Parliament (Congress) for Thiruvananthapuram (Lok Sabha), and award-winning author of 28 books, including, most recently, 'The Sage Who Reimagined Hinduism: the Life, Lessons and Legacy of Sree Narayana Guru', and the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee for External Affairs

For a layman, the legal process feels like a black hole where time and money disappear without a clear horizon for resolution

incarceration the rule rather than the exception. To uphold the constitutional promise of liberty, the judiciary must urgently lay down clear, mandatory guidelines that fix a firm timeline – perhaps no longer than one or two years – within which the state must either commence a meaningful trial or grant the accused bail.

This transition requires a radical embrace of the 21st century. For too long, our courts have operated as if they were frozen in the colonial era, reliant on mountains of physical files, and the personal presence of litigants who must often travel hundreds of miles just to hear a new date for the hearing. The digital revolution that has transformed how we bank, shop, and communicate must now also conquer the judiciary. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data-driven case management are not luxuries, but necessary tools to dismantle the backlog. Imagine a system where AI handles the routine administrative filing, flags delays, and even assists in legal research, allowing judges to focus their cognitive energy on the heart of the matter.

Need for inclusivity and accessibility

However, a faster court is only half the battle; we also require a more inclusive one. Citizens' trust in the law is deeply tied to whether they see themselves reflected in the people who interpret it. The judiciary has long been criticised for being an insular “old boys’ club,” where the glass ceiling for women and marginalised communities remains intact, with too many judges being relatives of earlier generations of judges. True reform means breaking these barriers to ensure that the Bench represents the vast and diverse tapestry of India. This is not about identity politics; it is about judicial quality. A Bench that understands the lived realities of a diverse population is a Bench that can deliver more nuanced and empathetic rulings. When a woman or a person from a historically oppressed community sits in judgment, she brings a perspective that enriches the law and makes it more responsive to the nuances of Indian society.

Beyond the composition of the Bench, there is the crushing issue of affordability. In its current form, justice is a luxury good. The cost of hiring competent counsel and the incidental expenses of long-term litigation effectively price out a significant portion of the population. India must overhaul the legal aid system, transforming it into a high-calibre institution that offers the poor a comparable quality of the representation available to the rich. If the state can provide food

and education, it must also provide the means for a citizen to defend their life and liberty.

Furthermore, the geographical centralisation of our highest courts remains a relic of the past. The idea that a litigant from south India must travel to the capital for a final appeal is an unnecessary burden. Regional Benches or a more robust system of virtual hearings for the Supreme Court would go a long way in making the highest level of justice a local reality rather than a distant dream.

Beneath these logistical changes lies the soul of the reform: the preservation of constitutional morality and judicial independence. The people need a judiciary that acts as a fearless referee, one that can hold the powerful to account without blinking. This independence is the bedrock of a functioning democracy. Yet, independence should not be confused with a lack of accountability. By opening up the process – through live-streaming of important cases and clearer criteria for judicial appointments – the court can rebuild the ‘social contract’ it has with the people.

A systemic overhaul

The country must stop treating judicial reform as a series of small, incremental adjustments and start treating it as a national emergency. The current state of affairs is a slow-motion catastrophe that erodes the rule of law every day. The people are not looking for grand speeches or ceremonial promises; they are looking for a system that works, and is fast and fair. We need to move away from the adversarial culture that views every legal disagreement as a battle to the death, toward a culture of resolution. We need judges who are as comfortable with a computer screen as they are with a law book, and a legal profession that values the closing of a case more than the prolongation of a fee.

As we move towards ‘Viksit Bharat’ 2047, the measure of our success as a nation will not just be our GDP or our technological prowess, but how we treat the person seeking justice in our courts. If we fail to reform, we risk a future where the law is seen merely as a tool of the powerful rather than as a shield for the weak.

But if we succeed, we can create a system where the scales of justice are finally balanced, ensuring that no Indian is ever again forced to wait a lifetime for a truth that should have been delivered in a day. The time for deliberation has passed; the time for a transformation that puts the citizen first, is now.

- **While high-profile cases capture the headlines and move through the docket with visible momentum, the average citizen finds himself trapped in a cycle of adjournments and procedural hurdles that can span generations.**
- **We have reached a point where the phrase “justice delayed is justice denied” is no longer a warning but a standard operating procedure.**
- **The urgency of judicial reform in India is not a professional concern for lawyers or a theoretical exercise for academics; it is a fundamental human rights crisis that demands a total reimagining of how the state delivers on its promise of fairness.**
- **The primary grievance of the common person is the sheer, suffocating weight of pendency. With over five crore cases currently clogging the arteries of our courts, the system has become its own worst enemy.**

- **The institutionalised sluggishness of the Indian legal system has transformed the pursuit of justice into an endurance test, giving rise to the grim observation that “the process is the punishment.”**
- **Unnecessary procedural bottlenecks and the culture of frequent, and often frivolous adjournments create a gravitational pull that keeps cases in limbo for decades, effectively stripping the accused of their dignity, livelihood, and social standing long before a verdict is ever reached.**
- **It is particularly unconscionable that those charged under stringent anti-terrorism laws, such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), languish in overcrowded prisons without trial and without the possibility of bail, as the prima facie evidence standard often makes incarceration the rule rather than the exception.**
- **To uphold the constitutional promise of liberty, the judiciary must urgently lay down clear, mandatory guidelines that fix a firm timeline — perhaps no longer than one or two years — within which the state must either commence a meaningful trial or grant the accused bail.**

- **Beyond the composition of the Bench, there is the crushing issue of affordability. In its current form, justice is a luxury good.**
- **The cost of hiring competent counsel and the incidental expenses of long-term litigation effectively price out a significant portion of the population.**
- **Furthermore, the geographical centralisation of our highest courts remains a relic of the past. The idea that a litigant from south India must travel to the capital for a final appeal is an unnecessary burden.**
- **Regional Benches or a more robust system of virtual hearings for the Supreme Court would go a long way in making the highest level of justice a local reality rather than a distant dream.**

Mains Question

Q. Judicial delay remains one of the most critical challenges facing the Indian justice delivery system.

Examine the causes of judicial delay and suggest measures to ensure timely justice delivery in India. *(250 words)*

प्रश्न: न्यायिक विलंब भारतीय न्याय प्रणाली के सामने सबसे गंभीर चुनौतियों में से एक बना हुआ है।

न्यायिक विलंब के कारणों का परीक्षण कीजिए तथा समयबद्ध न्याय सुनिश्चित करने के उपाय सुझाइए। *(250 शब्द)*

India's rural models are shaping development diplomacy

When India launched the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) in 2011, under the Ministry of Rural Development, it did so with an ambitious objective: to tackle multidimensional poverty by enabling rural households to access gainful employment and sustainable livelihoods through self-employment, financial inclusion, and learning new skills.

Now, 15 years later, the programme's scale, endurance, and outcomes have exceeded even its early champions' expectations. Over 20 million women members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) earn over ₹1,00,000 in income, and women banking correspondents are present in over 60% of local governments. Further, over 50 million women have accessed bank credit, boosting female labour force participation since 2018.

Remarkably, the NRLM has crossed borders, guiding rural livelihood initiatives across the Global South, particularly in Africa, and is subtly shaping India's development diplomacy.

India's quiet transformation

The magnitude of the NRLM's achievements is striking. As of mid-2025, the mission is active in 742 districts; has reached over 100 million households; mobilised more than nine million SHGs; facilitated ₹51,368 crore in capitalisation support; and enabled bank linkages amounting to ₹12 lakh crore, an expansion unprecedented in both scale and its focus on women. The Union Budget 2026-27 strengthened this trajectory with a ₹19,200 crore allocation, reaffirming the NRLM as India's flagship programme for rural poverty alleviation. What sets the NRLM apart is not only its breadth but the ecosystem it has nurtured. It has created federated community institutions at the village, cluster, and block levels; established community-based cadres delivering last-mile services; and embedded rural women in formal financial systems. Such a combination of social mobilisation, institutional architecture, and



Veda Vaidyanathan

Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress

In recent years, a growing number of African governments have begun exploring the Indian SHG-based livelihoods framework

access to credit and skills has made the mission a unique and enduring intervention in global development practice.

Beyond borders

Innovations in development rarely travel easily across borders because they are shaped by local political economies, social structures, and state capacities. Yet the NRLM's design appears unusually portable. In recent years, a growing number of African governments have begun exploring the Indian SHG-based livelihoods framework. Delegations from Ethiopia, Tanzania, Malawi, Kenya, and Rwanda have undertaken detailed study visits to India, examining not just the outcomes of the NRLM but the operational mechanics that make it work. They sought to understand how India managed to scale SHGs to tens of millions of women; how credit linkages with banks were created and sustained; how communities were mobilised into federations; how trained cadres were deployed at scale; and how accountability and financial discipline were embedded in the system. This surge of interest reflects a wider shift in how countries of the Global South envision development: no longer in terms of Western knowledge templates but through peer learning, centred on contextually relevant and locally rooted innovation.

African policymakers are drawn to the NRLM for several interrelated reasons. First, its focus on women's collective empowerment resonates strongly with ongoing efforts across Africa to deepen women's economic participation. The SHG model, built on pooled savings, peer learning, and trust-based credit discipline, offers a structured yet flexible way to strengthen women's agency. Second, the NRLM's architecture is cost-effective, relying not on heavy capital investment but on community-driven processes and cadre systems that allow even resource-constrained governments to scale the programme. Third, the model aligns well with the

realities of large informal economies across Africa, where livelihood diversification and microenterprise formation are crucial. And finally, the model appeals to these countries because it is an institution-building approach rather than a mere scheme; it strengthens local governance, enhances accountability, and creates long-term community capacity.

India's emerging development diplomacy

India's development cooperation has historically emphasised capacity-building, concessional finance, and technical assistance. The dissemination of the NRLM marks a clear evolution – the country is now exporting social-sector institutions grounded in its own developmental experience. Such institutional models create sustained linkages between bureaucracies, implementing agencies, and community organisations, offering a distinct channel for international engagement. They also provide potential entry points for collaboration in digital governance, agriculture, and financial architecture. The NRLM example illustrates how India's domestic innovations are shaping South-South cooperation by circulating knowledge and institutional practices rather than resources alone. To build on this momentum, India could institutionalise the sharing of its rural livelihoods knowledge through a dedicated Rural Livelihoods Knowledge Exchange Platform, linking state livelihood missions, training institutions, and African governments. Expanded training, longer fellowships, immersion visits and joint pilot projects could help adapt SHG-based initiatives to local contexts.

The NRLM is no longer only India's story of rural transformation. Growing interest from African nations demonstrates that India can generate solutions that develop livelihoods far beyond its borders. In doing so, New Delhi is shaping a new paradigm for global development.

Views expressed are personal.

- **When India launched the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) in 2011, under the Ministry of Rural Development, it did so with an ambitious objective: to tackle multidimensional poverty by enabling rural households to access gainful employment and sustainable livelihoods through self-employment, financial inclusion, and learning new skills.**
- **Now, 15 years later, the programme's scale, endurance, and outcomes have exceeded even its early champions' expectations.**
- **Over 20 million women members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) earn over ₹1,00,000 in income, and women banking correspondents are present in over 60% of local governments. Further, over 50 million women have accessed bank credit, boosting female labour force participation since 2018.**
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- **Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India in June 2011 as a restructured version of Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna (SGSY).**
- **The Mission aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms of the rural poor enabling them to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services.**
- **In November 2015, the program was renamed Deendayal Antayodaya Yojana (DAY-NRLM).**
- **NRLM has set out with an agenda to cover 7 Crore rural poor households, across 600 districts, 6000 blocks, 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats and 6 lakh villages in the country through self-managed Self Help Groups (SHGs) and federated institutions and support them for livelihoods collectives in a period of 8-10 years.**
- **In addition, the poor would be facilitated to achieve increased access to their rights, entitlements and public services, diversified risk and better social indicators of empowerment.**

- **It is a Centrally Sponsored Programme, launched by the Ministry of Rural Development in 2011.**
- **It aims to eliminate rural poverty through the promotion of multiple livelihoods and improved access to financial services for the rural poor households across the country.**

Functioning:

- **It involves working with community institutions through community professionals in the spirit of self-help which is a unique proposition of DAY-NRLM.**
- **It impacts livelihoods by**
- **Mobilizing rural households into SHGs.**
- **Organizing one-woman member from each rural poor household into SHGs**
- **Providing training and capacity building to SHG members**
- **Providing access to financial resources from their own institutions and banks.**

Q. How does the National Rural Livelihood Mission seek to improve livelihood options of rural poor? (2012)

- 1. By setting up a large number of new manufacturing industries and agribusiness centres in rural areas**
- 2. By strengthening 'self-help groups' and providing skill development**
- 3. By supplying seeds, fertilizers, diesel pump-sets and micro-irrigation equipment free of cost to farmers**

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only**
- (b) 2 only**
- (c) 1 and 3 only**
- (d) 1, 2 and 3**

Creeping risk

Industrial accidents occur due to neglect of risks built up over time

An engineering reality underlying the recent spate of boiler explosions is that boilers almost never fail this way suddenly. They are usually due to overpressure, scaling, mismanaged water level, and/or revival stress, the risk of each of which builds over time. The boiler explosion in Sakti, Chhattisgarh, that killed 20 people also shares a few similarities with the Visakhapatnam gas leak in 2020 and the blast at a thermal power station in Neyveli in 2020. In the former, safety systems at a unit had been inactive or uncalibrated following a post-lockdown restart while a plant restart process triggered the explosion at the latter. The Sakti plant had likewise been recently acquired, recently commissioned, and was operating at under its full capacity at the time of the blast. In these unstable operating regimes, failures often result due to transient thermal and pressure imbalances. However, in practice, neither the national boiler inspection regime nor the regulatory framework heighten oversight in these phases. Certification is valid for up to a year even though boiler conditions vary on a daily basis. The current structure also penalises downtime instead of unsafe operations and rewarding maintenance shutdowns. Events such as those at Sakti are also evidence that the framework's focus on fabrication standards rather than continuous instrumentation and auditing is not working. The Centre's focus on 'ease of doing business' has favoured self-certification and scheduled third-party audits in place of surprise government inspections. The Boiler Accident Inquiry Rules were notified in 2025; whether they will address these structural gaps remains to be seen.

The expansion of India's industrial capacity is pushing ageing infrastructure harder, more plants are operating closer to their limits, and flaws in their management are being exposed to more media coverage and political attention. It is possible that these facilities have long been exposing their workers to hazardous working conditions, and the ensuing crises are not altogether accidental. Contract labour is the most exposed. A growing share of workers are migrants hired via subcontractors, who trade blame with the operator after a disaster. The safety signage and manuals are often unavailable in workers' native languages. Investigators have reported workers in the Pune industrial belt since 2021 and following explosions in Sangareddy in 2024 and 2025 being unaware of the names and properties of the chemicals in their workplace. The new OSHW Code 2020 also does not clearly hold the principal employer criminally liable for safety lapses in contractors' operations but qualifies it on the employer's negligence. These are old complaints about how India treats its labour. Until this culture is dismantled, firms' and regulators' incentives, labour arrangements, and factory-floor practices will keep absorbing 'accidents' as the cost of doing business.

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Thank You!

